

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGUI 2022 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
CAIRO KHARTOUM KINSHASA NDJAMENA TRIPOLI YAOUNDE TEL AVIV
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QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGUI 2022

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CT, LY
SUBJ: QADDAFI VISIT OVERVIEW

REF: BANGUI 1983

1. LIBYAN PRESIDENT QADDAFI LEFT BANGUI OCT 20 WILL FULL
MILITARY HONORS. HIGHLIGHTS OF LATTER HALF OF HIS VISIT WERE
PUBLIC ADDRESS AT NATIONAL SPORTS STADIUM TO AUDIENCE OF MORE
THAN 5000 COMPOSED OF STUDENTS AND PARTY FAITHFUL, DIPLOMATS
AND LOCAL ISLAMIC COMMUNITY. QADDAFI EMPHASIZED IN A LONG AND
EMOTIONAL ADDRESS THE VIRTUES OF ISLAM OVER CHRISTIANITY,
CASTIGATING THE LATTER AS THE RELIGION OF COLONIALISTS AND
IMPERIALISTS. HE ALSO SOUNDED ONE POLITICAL NOTE IN SUGGESTING
THAT CAR SHOULD KEEP FIRM CONTROL OF ITS URANIUM DEPOSITS
AND NOT ALLOW FRENCH AND OTHER IMPERIALISTS TO CONTROL THEM.
FINAL PUBLIC APPEARANCE OF QADDAFI WAS AT SHOWING OF THREE AND
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HALF HOUR FEATURE FILM ON THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET MOHAMMED.

2. QADDAFI VISIT MUST BE REGARDED AS CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS FROM PERSPECTIVE OF VISIONARY AND MESSIANIC LIBYAN FOREIGN POLICY. NOT ONLY HAS BOKASSA BECOME MUSLIM BUT INCREASING NUMBERS OF MINISTERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE FOLLOWED SUIT. LIBYAN CULTURAL CENTER HAS BEEN OPENED AND PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER IXPANSION OF ISLAMIC INFLUENCE SEEM GOOD.

3. FROM BOKASSA'S PERSPECTIVE ALSO VISIT MUST BE CONSIDERED SUCCESS. LIBYANS HAVE PUBLICLY PROMISED HIM 14 MILLION DOLLARS IN AID IN THE FORM OF CAPITAL FOR JOINT COMPANIES. THEY MAY HAVE PROCIDED MORE PRIVATELY. (BOKASSA AND FAMILY MEMBERS AND MINISTERS EACH RECEIVED ONE MILLION CFA AS CONVERSTION BONUS.)
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N NOL O MPCTAD TO BE WELCOMED IN WHOLE RANGE OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES AND CHANCES OF AID FROM OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES HAS BEEN ENHANCED. NO DOUBT A PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA WILL BE IN THE OFFING. BOKASSA SEEMS TO HAVE PAID ONLY A SMALL PRICE IN TERMS OF MODIFYING HIS POLITICAL PRINCIPLES. COMMUNIQUE WHICH
L
S ISSUED AT THE END OF THE VISIT IS STILL NOT AVAILABLE HERE AND WE DO NOT YET KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT BOKASSA WAS OBLIGED TO SIGN ON TO ANY DAMAGING RADICAL LIBYAN RHETORIC. FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN DIPLOMATS, HOWEVER, DOUBT THERE WILL BE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN CAR POLICIES.

4. THE ONLY SOUR NOTE FROM BOKASSA'S POINT OF VIEW, AND HE MAY WELL NOT BE AWARE OF IT, IS THAT HIS VONVERSION TO ISLAM HAS BEEN REGARDED WITH CONSIDERABLE CYNICISM AND EVEN SCORN BY CENTRAL AFRICANS. CREDIBILITY OF HIS IMAGE IS ERODED BY HIS VONVERSTION AS IT WILL BE FURTHER IF HE GOES AHEAD WITH WHAT IS NOW STRONGLY RUMORED PROCLAMATION OF AN EMPIRE ON DEC 1.
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